

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed January 31, 2005 and the Advisory Action mailed June 3, 2005. At the time of the Final Office Action, Claims 1-6 and 8-13 were pending in this Application. Claims 7 and 14-19 were previously cancelled due to an election/restriction. Claims 1-6 and 8-13 were amended. At the time of the Advisory Action, Claims 1-6 and 8-13 were pending in this Application have been amended to further define various features of Applicants' invention. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6 and 8-13 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0032025 filed by Gary A. Lenz et al. ("Lenz et al."). Applicants respectfully traverse and submit the cited art does not teach all of the limitations of the claimed embodiments of the invention.

The presently claimed embodiments of the invention are directed, *inter alia*, to determining a fault condition from a plurality of possible fault conditions utilizing a "weight value" based on functional relationships between inputs and outputs of components of an automation system. Lenz et al. do not disclose such a system. Lenz is merely directed to the utilization of a "similarity score"(Para. 0009) to determine whether a measurement received related to a parameter is within, *i.e.*, "similar enough" to process attribute information stored in the databases. If the measurement is similar enough, *i.e.*, if the "measurement" has "an acceptable similarity" with the database information and is within a "match tolerance level" that is "set by the user" then the process proceeds (See Para. 0025 and 0026). If the "similarity score is below the set match tolerance level, then the process controller may determine that the measurement received is inaccurate. The process controller then computes a process action, using a virtual variable, in accordance with step 207." (Para. 0026).

The presently claimed embodiment of the invention is directed to a system to identify the most likely fault condition out of a multitude of possible fault conditions. This is done, according to an aspect of the embodiment claimed, by assigning "weight values" to fault conditions based on the functional relationships of components of the system. Consequently,

the most likely fault condition can be identified quickly and adjustments may be made in the process to eliminate the fault condition. Lenz simply does not disclose such a system. Lenz only determines whether a specific process parameter measurement is similar enough to a "match tolerance level" to allow a process to continue in the existing state, or whether adjustments to the process should be made for the process to continue. The presently claimed embodiment of the invention is directed to determining the likely cause, *e.g.*, fault condition, out of a myriad possible causes of an unwanted output so that the process can be adjusted and/or ceased. The claimed "weighting value" is not assigned to a process parameter measurement, but to possible fault conditions based upon a comparison to database information, so that a user can quickly determine the cause of an unwanted output. Withdrawal of the rejection and favorable action is respectfully requested.

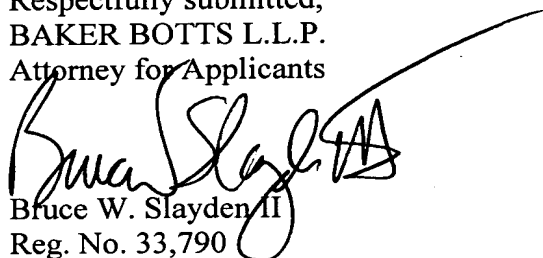
CONCLUSION

Applicants have now made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims as amended.

Applicants enclose a check in the amount of \$790.00 for the Request for Continued Examination fee required by 37 C.F.R. 1.17(e). Applicants also enclose a Petition for Extension of Time (three months) and a check in the amount of \$1,020.00 for the extension fee. Applicants believe there are no additional fees due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P. in order to effectuate this filing.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.322.2606.

Respectfully submitted,
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorney for Applicants



Bruce W. Slayden II
Reg. No. 33,790

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
CUSTOMER ACCOUNT NO. **31625**
512.322.2606
512.322.8306 (fax)

Date: July 29, 2005